

THE MORNING ASTORIAN
Established 1873.
Published Daily by
THE J. S. DELLINGER COMPANY.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, per year\$7.00
By mail, per month..... .60
By carrier, per month..... .75

WEEKLY ASTORIAN.
By mail, per year, in advance..\$1.00

Entered as second-class matter June 23, 1895, at the postoffice at Astoria, Oregon, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



Orders for the delivering of THE MORNING ASTORIAN to either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or through tele. home. Any irregularity in delivery should be immediately reported to the office of publication.

TELEPHONE MAIN 661.

was regarded as a very venturesome person. In the last six years, however, a single New York builder has erected houses at a cost of from \$400,000 to \$500,000 on a purely speculative basis; and has, moreover, sold them. Whether the purchasers' contentment with the ready-made article, however, is owing to the lack of ideas or an indecent haste to establish themselves on America's greatest residential thoroughfare is not determined.

TO BALANCE THE BOOKS.

Congressman Burton of Ohio, chairman of the river and harbors committee of the lower house of Congress, is authority for the statement that no general river and harbor bill will be passed at the coming session of Congress. A bill passed last session carried appropriations sufficient for projects deserving immediate attention. Moreover, Congress must curtail expenses in order to wipe out the existing deficiency, which annoys the administration and the party leaders. The people like to see the treasury balance on the right side of the ledger. In view of this, the millions asked by the general naval board for new battleships and mosquito craft will hardly be granted in full, although some addition to the force will be authorized.

REFORM THE REFORMERS.

Newspaper enterprise has reached such perfection in Paris, according to "The London Globe," that the "Matin" and "Journal," which have been making a specialty of abuses and reforms as an advertisement, have now remedied nearly every scandal in the metropolis. At their own expense they have reconstructed buildings, converted all procurable bad characters, and even entered the government offices and reorganized them until their representatives have been thrown out. Matters have now come to a serious climax—there is little left to reform. Paris is reported to be becoming the best of all possible cities. Unless another Dreyfus case or Panama scandal can be got up the circulation of the papers will be seriously impaired.

TALK OF THE DAY.

Smoking is to be reformed by its friends. A convention of pipe smokers was held in Belgium to combat the abuse of tobacco. The best way to prevent the abuse of tobacco is to smoke slowly. M. Kos, the president of the convention, informed his hearers that it took him three hours and seven minutes to get through one pipe. It is obvious that at this rate of going one could hardly smoke more than four pipes a day. A pipe, according to M. Kos, will outlast three hours if filled in a particular way—loosely, that is, at the bottom, firmly in the middle, and again loosely at the top. "Further," he said, "you must give up your whole mind to the process. Patience and determination make the true smoker." M. Kos went on to affirm that the object of the convention, strange as it may appear, was to combat the abuse of tobacco. Those who smoke slowly get the greatest amount of pleasure out of their tobacco, while the nicotine is absorbed in the wood and does not reach the lips.

STAND FOR YOUR STATE.

Texas is a whopper. She's a peach. She's the widest, broadest and longest country on earth, extending from East to West and also from North to South. She could put Rhode Island in her vest pocket. She could swallow three or four states like Maryland and wash 'em down by drinking the Mississippi dry, and could digest 'em without ever having the colic. Texas is the empire state of the union without any Kaiser Bill for an Emperor. She's the chiefest among ten thousand and altogether lively, wild, reckless. She's the pebble on the beach. She's one of the old blue hen's chickens. She's the cock of the walk and the Democrat of the world. She's a wolf, and it's her day to howl. Texas is bounded on the East by the alligators of Louisiana and huckleberry thickets of Arkansas. She is bounded on the North by the tomahawk and the war whoop of the red man. She is bounded on the West by the chili con carne of New Mexico and the hot tamales of Old Mexico. She is bounded on the South by the Gulf of Mexico, and if it wasn't for that measly body of salt water she would extend beyond the South pole. As I said in the beginning, Texas is a whopper; she is a Jim Dandy, and don't you doubt it.—Choc-taw (Tex.), Inquirer.

INVESTMENT FOR PROFIT.

The palaces of the millionaire, like the east side tenements or the suburban cottages, have been built directly for the market. The modern Fifth avenue mansion has become almost a staple article of merchandise. Five or six years ago the builder who risked his capital in a \$30,000 or \$40,000 house

ADAIR TO THE FRONT

Leads in Statement for the Month of October.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Showing Made by the Teachers and Scholars for the Past Twenty School Days—Fine Figures for All Concerned in the Matter.

City Superintendent of Schools W. A. Clark has prepared his report of the Astoria public school system for the month beginning on October 16th, and ending on November 10th, covering twenty days attendance and service. From that report (which cannot be published in full in these columns), the following interesting matters and figures are culled.

The totals of registered school children in the district are given as follows: Girls, 702; boys, 685; both 1387; Monthly enrollment, girls, 694; boys, 674; both 1368. Days attendance, 26,371.5; days absence, 456. The Percent of daily attendance is as follows: Alderbrook, 98.3; ADAIR, 99.3; Shively, 96.9; McClure, 98.2; Olney, 98.8; Taylor, 97.9; and High, 98.8. This puts the Adair school at the head on the list for attendance and the further declaration of Superintendent Clark, that there was neither absence nor tardiness in Room No. 7, of the Adair school during the entire month, puts that building and room on the "Banner" side of everything scholastic for the month. The total per cent attendance for all the schools for the entire month is put at 98.4, a splendid showing for the system.

The report, taken as a whole, is very gratifying to all concerned, and speaks volumes for the teachers in charge who have been able to maintain such flattering figures, a state of affairs to which the scholars themselves have contributed in good fashion.

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CAPT. JOSEPH FRITZ.

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